

Susan Tweed
2905 69th St., E.
Palmetto, FL 34221

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April 29, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Ln., Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket 98P-0151/CP1

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask that you support the above-referenced petition, which would prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for human food. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has recognized the health risks in meat from downed animals. The FDA has a responsibility to act in the best interest of the American public and not take risks with our health.

Downed animals are pushed with tractors and dragged with chains. They can carry diseases that infect humans and other animals that eat them. Due to their weakened condition, downers increase the risk that E. Coli and other bacterial infections will enter the food supply. They comprise a small percentage of animals slaughtered in the U.S., and prohibiting their sale will not cause economic hardship. Most of the conditions that lead to downers can be eliminated, and removing the market for them will provide the necessary incentive to the industry to improve animal care.

I hope to hear soon that the petition has been passed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Tweed
Susan Tweed

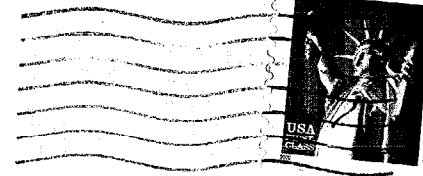
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Ms. Susan Tweed
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ASPCA



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